

the Almagest

February 8, 2002

Paranoia is the path to wisdom.

Volume 41, Number 2

Students unite to celebrate Black History

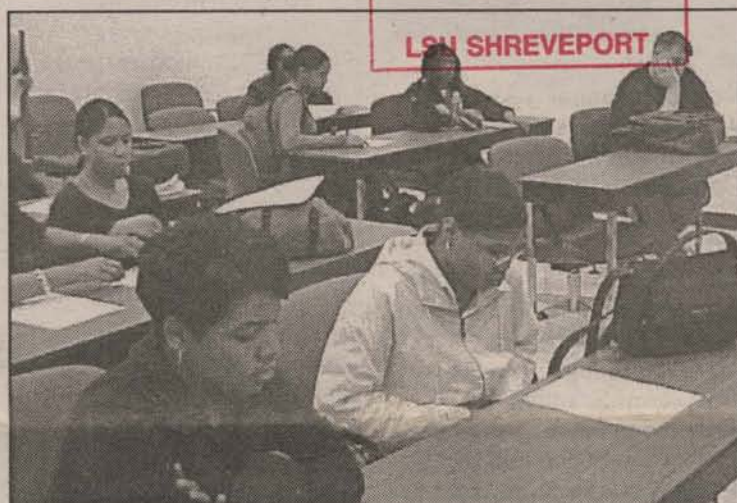
by
Dominic Claiborne

The Black Student Association (BSA) is a new organization on campus, but about 15 to 20 students are already attending meetings on a regular basis, according to Charity Moran, founder and president of the group.

The organization was born out of an attempt to reinstate a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the University, said Moran, a sophomore biochemistry/pre-med major.

Moran said she founded the BSA, rather than a chapter of the NAACP, for financial reasons.

The organization has held six meetings since it originated last fall. At its last meeting, members planned to



The Black Student Association is organizing activities for Black History Month at LSUS

Photo by Dominic Claiborne

play a song and give a fact about black music each Tuesday and Thursday in February as part of Black History Month.

The group also plans to take field trips to African American museums in Dallas

and Alexandria and to hold a quiz bowl in March or April.

"It's important to lay a solid foundation so the organization will be around for a while," Moran said.

Membership is open all, regardless of race or sex.

Shawn Christy, who is Caucasian, said he joined because of a "personal commitment" and for his "political views."

Christy, a junior education major, said he "wants more people to join and for the group to have a definite presence on campus."

BSA members are planning to host a soul food booth at Spring Fling.

In the fall, members will do can shakes to benefit the United Negro College Fund and Sickle Cell Anemia.

BSA officers include Karanda Lewis, vice-president; Willie Register, sergeant at arms; and Tiffany Williams, secretary.

The next meeting will be held Feb. 7 during common hour in the DeSoto Room in the University Center. For more information, call Charity Moran at 773-8841.

SGA passes fee hike

The Student Government Association (SGA) Senate unanimously approved a proposal to raise the student activities fee from \$45 to \$90 at its Jan. 31 meeting.

The bill will now go to Chancellor Vincent Marsala for approval, according to SGA President Jeff Strozier, who introduced the bill at an earlier meeting. If Marsala approves the proposal, it will go to the LSU Board of Supervisors, the governing body of the LSU system.

Strozier said the money generated from the fee increase will directly benefit student organizations such as SGA, Student Activities Board, The Almagest, Debate Team and Student Organizations Council.

Vagina monologues promote awareness of violence against women

by
Lisa Branch

The entirely student-run, student-directed and student-performed production of The Vagina Monologues opens on Feb. 14 in the University Center Theatre.

Sixteen LSUS women will perform the Obie Award-winning play Feb. 14-16 at 7 p.m.

The play, written by Eve Ensler, features monologues from female characters of all backgrounds on what their vaginas mean to them, their womanhood and their sexuality.

The production is part of

the V-day college campaign, an annual event inspired by The Vagina Monologues.

Each year, colleges across the country stage the play to help raise awareness and money for organizations working to stop and prevent violence against women.

As part of this year's V-Day, a production of the play will air on HBO the same night it debuts at LSUS. The V in V-Day stands for victory, valentine and vagina.

Lindsay Meade, the producer and director, attained the rights for LSUS to stage the play last year.

In October, she and other college women who planned



Photo by Matthew Morris

Students rehearse for the Vagina Monologues, which will be held Feb. 14-16 at 7 p.m. in the University Center Theater

to participate in V-Day attended a workshop with Ensler. "She had people come

and read monologues and try giving direction," said Meade, who participated in musicals

and stage productions during her high school years.

During the workshop, Ensler said something that Meade said she's remembered throughout the long hours of planning the LSUS V-Day event. "She said that the title of the show is shocking, and it's meant to be because we want to shock people into talking about and working through these issues."

The local YWCA will receive most of the proceeds from the LSUS production of The Vagina Monologues.

The other portion of the proceeds will go to an organi-

Continued on pg. 6

American Humanics honored at national conference

by
Allison Burns
and Myra Taylor

The American Humanics Student Organization took home two awards, including the Excellence in Public Relations Award, and \$1,000 cash from the American Humanics Management Institute (AHMI) held in San Antonio last month.

The organization was one of 88 schools represented at the AHMI. The LSUS group took home two of only six awards that were presented during the event.

"We're impressed," said social sciences professor Dr. Norman Dolch, who serves as American Humanics Student Organization adviser. "We got the public relations award because the student organization focused on developing relationships with the communities."

We try to focus our energy on making a major impact at LSUS and linking LSUS to the non-profit community."

Not only did the organization as a whole prove to be one of the best in the nation, but member David Horning was chosen as the nationwide Student Representative of the Year.

"I was just there enjoying the conference and they called my name," said Horning, a senior general studies major. "Everyone was screaming and it was all a daze."

Students had to complete an application process and submit letters of recommendation in order to be eligible for AHMI awards, according to Stacey Bass, president of the LSUS American Humanics Student Organization.

Bass, a junior sociology major, said the organization received the public relations award for doing work in the community like organizing



Photo courtesy of American Humanics
Amanda Joy Bell on the Board of Directors Student Panel at AHMI waiting to speak on how American Humanics affects lives

the annual volunteer fair and coordinating campaigns for the United Way.

Amanda Joy Bell, event

coordinator of the Institute for Human Services and Public Policy, said Horning earned his award by dedicating him-

self to the organization. "He's one of those people that does a lot of behind the scene's work and doesn't want credit," Bell said. "He's always been very active in the organization, and participated in everything we've done without a thank you."

Bell said she hopes that the two awards will attract more local high school students and current LSUS students to the American Humanics program. "We're hoping it will...bring people in who want to be involved in American Humanics," said Bell.

The American Humanics Student Organization is open to students of all majors. New members may join at any time.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month during common hour in Room 361 of Bronson Hall.

For more information, call Dolch at 797-5235.

Continuing Ed offers an assortment of new courses

by
Lauren Miller

Anyone interested in computer learning, certificate programs, exam preparation, professional development or simple leisure learning can register for classes with the Division of Continuing Education at LSUS.

This semester, there are courses for those who want to work as dental assistants, paralegals, non-profit administrators, substance abuse specialists, advanced substance abuse specialists or in timber management.

Courses in dance, foreign languages, health, history, parenting, personal finance, security and writing are also scheduled.

Participants can hear the differences between civil and criminal litigation by enrolling in the Civil Litigation class taught by Judge Charles Scott or learn the basic rhythms and ideas of salsa dancing in the Sizzlin'

Salsa class.

More than 50 new classes are offered this semester, including Web Design for Beginners, Get the Interview for the Job You Want and Personal Safety.

A few classes, including the GRE and PPST Prep courses will not be offered. However, the MCAT prep course will remain because of its popularity.

The response to this year's programs has been overwhelming and tremendous, according to Dr. Severn Doughty, dean of continuing education.

Doughty said he is thoroughly pleased to see that registration has doubled since last year.

The increased enrollment is a product of the marketing strategy the Continuing Education staff developed last fall, Doughty said.

The Division of Continuing Education has already received 500 registration applications.

Registration forms and a

list of available courses can be found outside the office in Room 123 of Bronson Hall.

Registration forms will be accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week until three days before the class begins. Registration can be done in person, by mail or via the fax hotline at 797-5395.

The cost of courses starts at \$50 and increases depending on the materials that are needed.

Full-time LSUS students are eligible for a 50 percent discount. LSUS Alumni receive a 10 percent discount.

These discounts must be requested upon time of registration.

Payments can be made by check, money order, credit card, purchase order or cash.

Doughty said he wants the Division of Continuing Education to be student and faculty friendly.

He and his staff encourage students to suggest ideas for new courses or changes in current courses, Doughty said.

American Humanics to hold Volunteer Fair April 4

by
Allison Burns

The American Humanics Student Organization will hold its biannual Volunteer Fair on April 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Local non-profit organizations will set up booths on campus and pass out information to students in order to recruit volunteers.

Booths will be outside if the weather is nice.

President Stacey Bass

said she foresees a good turn out. "We had 15 booths at the fall fair and I'm sending out more letters hoping for responses from the Red Cross, Shreveport Green, the Pregnancy Crisis Center and more," Bass said. "I hope everyone comes at least just to talk and get information."

For more information on the Volunteer Fair or the American Humanics Student Organization, call Dr. Norman Dolch at 797-5235.

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Ellis Harvest retires after 27 years

by
Rachel Hayes

LSUS faculty and staff gathered for a retirement reception for Ellis Harvest, a campus custodian for 27 years, last Thursday. Harvest's family and friends were also on hand to honor him.

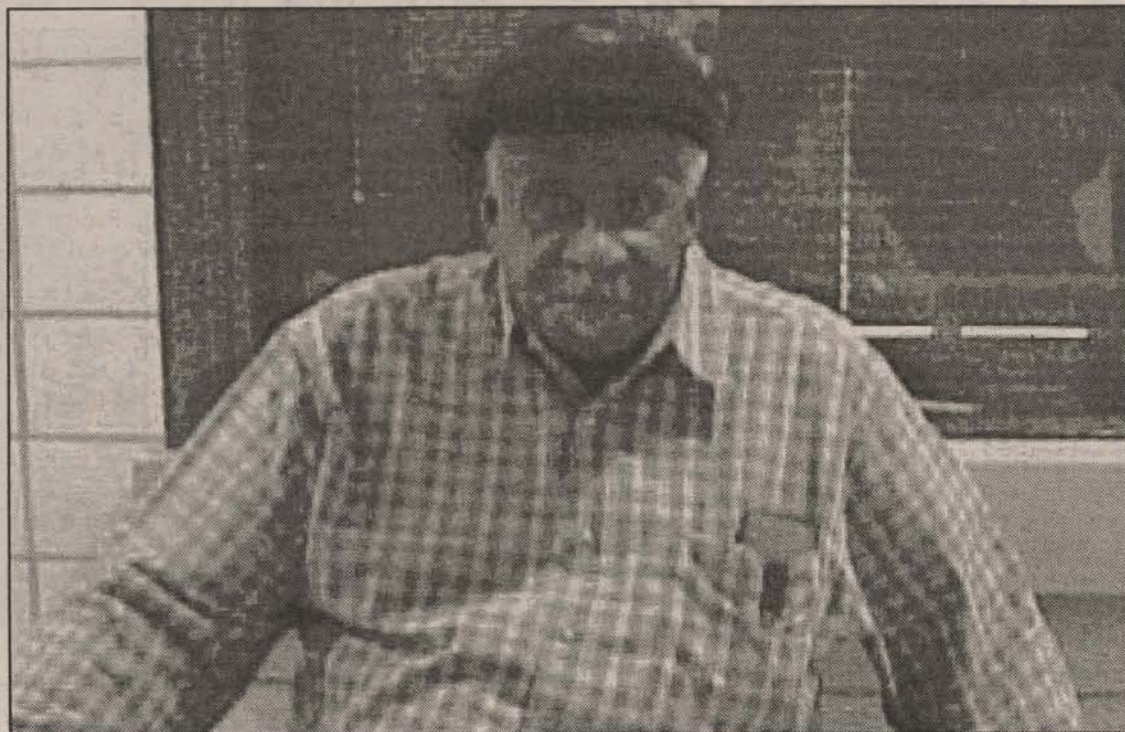
After years of dedicated service to LSUS, Harvest is turning in his custodian uniform and saying goodbye to the campus and his fellow workers.

Harvest said he had planned on working another year, but his bad knee pushed up his retirement date. Feb. 1 was his last day on the job.

Fellow custodians Earnest Ellis, Jim Brock and many others said they felt a personal loss when Harvest left.

"I've enjoyed 11 years of working with him," Ellis said. "I'm going to miss him."

Many students were also used to seeing Harvest's cheerful smile around the



Ellis Harvest has been a custodian at LSUS since 1975

Photo by Dominic Claiborne

University Center.

Harvest said he enjoyed "just everything" about working at LSUS.

There were good times

and bad times, but the good always outweighed the bad, he said. "The years here have been good."

Harvest began working

nights as a part-time custodian at LSUS on Feb. 3, 1975, while holding a full-time job at Interstate Electric Compa-

ny. He became a full-time LSUS employee when Interstate Electric Company was bought by another company and began to downsize.

Harvest was born in east Texas and spent his childhood years traveling between Shreveport and Texas.

He attended private school until he reached high school, when he attended a public school in Shreveport. After high school, Harvest attended boot camp in Arkansas and went into the Army, where he served two years in Korea.

Harvest said he considers himself blessed because he didn't see severe action while serving in Korea.

Harvest and his wife, Annie, now have 6 children, 8 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Now that he's retired, Harvest said he plans to just take time to relax, though still looking for ways to keep himself busy.

Biological Health Sciences Club sponsors seminars

by
Heather Hovis

The Biological and Health Sciences Club is sponsoring a seminar series featuring professionals in various scientific fields this semester, according to the organization's adviser Dr. Beverly Burden.

Burden said a desire to create "career awareness" led to the new Allied Health Seminar Series.

Dr. Cran Lucas, professor of biological sciences, coordinated the seminar speakers. Lucas has speakers scheduled through March 12, but Burden said Lucas intends to eventually schedule speakers for the entire semester.

The seminars, which are open to students of all majors, will be conducted during the common hour each Tuesday in Room 228 of the Sciences Building.

A different professional will speak at each meeting. Directors from various departments of the Louisiana

State University Health Sciences Center have already made plans to speak.

One of the purposes of the Biological and Health Sciences Club is to broaden the scope of classroom education by offering students the opportunity to get involved in their future profession through activities such as the seminar series, medical and

biological outings and volunteer opportunities.

More than 30 students attended the club's first meeting of the semester last week. Club President Louellen Harper said she has already received more than 45 applications for membership.

The majority of members are science majors or education majors who intend

to teach science at a secondary level, but students with other majors are also members.

Harper said she was delighted that many underclassmen have shown interest in the club.

Harper, who is a sophomore, said she is excited about activities such as the Science Olympiad that club members have planned for this semester.

LSUS will host the Science Olympiad for the 14th time in March.

The event allows middle and high school students from Northwest Louisiana an opportunity to compete with each other, and gives the club members many opportunities to get involved. Dr. Stephanie Aamodt, chair of biological sciences, coordinates the event.

She said the Science Olympiad "helps recruit potential students from the area" for LSUS.

For more information, call Burden at 797-5088.



Photo by Dominic Claiborne

Sharon Dunn, instructor of the School of Allied Health Professionals speaks at a Biological Health Sciences Club seminar

A professional in the designated scientific field will speak to the Biological and Health Sciences Club each Tuesday during common hour in Room 228 of the Sciences Building.

Feb. 5

Physical
Therapy

Feb. 19

Occupational
Therapy

Feb. 26

Medical
Technician and
Clinical Lab

March 5

Cardiopulmonary
Science

March 12

Organ Transplant

MUSIC VIEWS

by
Jessica Dillman

"I'm not Creed or Staind. I'm a singer-songwriter and I have a band."

This is how local artist and former LSUS student Cameron Meshell describes himself and his music.

A self-taught musician, Meshell plays guitar, piano, drums and keyboard and also writes and composes his own lyrics and music.

Last month, he was among the 12 emerging artists from across the country featured on the latest compilation CD in the Ampt Music Series.

Meshell first earned a name for himself locally when he opened for Collective Soul's sold-out concert in Shreveport's Strand Theatre in 1999.

In just two weeks, Meshell will begin a journey to prove his talent to the recording industry and the music world.

Meshell will showcase his work to numerous record labels during the next few months in hopes of landing a contract. The first stop on his trek is New Orleans, where he plans to record his first solo album titled "Forever Like Red."

Meshell spent a year and a half developing the songs, 11 of which he wrote, that will appear on the album.

Meshell will perform lead vocals and play piano, keyboard and guitar.

Meshell said the songs he's chosen for his solo debut range in sound from mainstream radio to the antithesis of mainstream radio.

"I want my music the way

I want it recorded," Meshell said.

He did, however, leave room for the producer to "sugar-coat" some of the songs if he feels it is necessary, Meshell said.

For those who think Meshell's music has a non-

traditional jazzy sound, "Forever Like Red" might seem surprisingly different. "It's got more of a rock sound...more acceptable to the public," Meshell said. "It's more guitar-oriented."

A release date for the album has not been set.

After New Orleans,

Meshell will head to Austin to play in a showcase for the South by Southwest music festival.

The South by Southwest event is one of the largest gatherings in the recording industry including singers, songwriters and composers.

Next, Meshell will leave for Los Angeles to play the legendary Viper Room and introduce a few of his new songs to interested label representatives.

Meshell said he wants to sign with a major record label mainly for distribution opportunities, not the wealth.

"It's all about money to (record labels), but it's all about art to (musicians)," he said.

Meshell said he'll be playing venues in New York, L.A., New Orleans and Atlanta. Meshell said he'll play in bigger cities because "small towns like Shreveport just don't have the market" for his kind of music.

Meshell offered a word of advice for other musicians/artists in the Shreveport area looking to break into the big time music industry: "Your music has to be special."

For more information on Meshell, visit his Web site at <http://www.cameronmeshell.com>.



photo by neil johnson

Cameron Meshell

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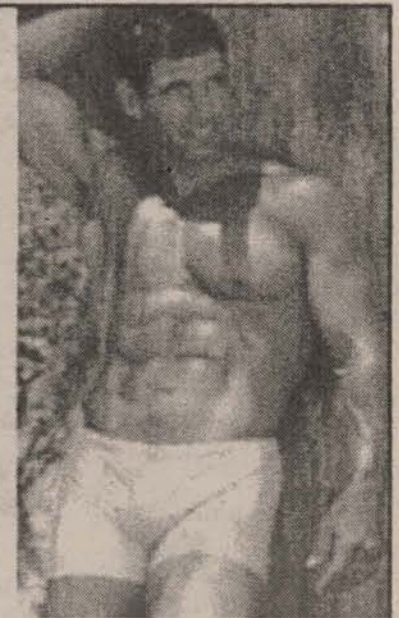
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*PERMS

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I didn't mean to shoot daddy's gun.



An unlocked gun could be the death of your family.
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YWCA to participate in V-Day

Continued from pg. 1

zation that defends the rights of women in Afghanistan. (The organization was founded "long before" Sept. 11, Meade said.)

The YWCA and other organizations will have booths set up for information and products including V-Day T-shirts and hats before and after each performance. After the production, YWCA and University counselors will be on hand to talk and discuss issues from the show as part of the Vagina Dialogues.

The student response from faculty, students and the community has been "very good," Meade said. "I heard that teachers are using it for

examples and discussion starters in class."

Students like Justin Branch, a sophomore biochemistry major, don't exactly support the play, however. Branch said he feels that staging the play is "funny, but not appropriate."

Senior criminal justice major Pam Mitchell said she feels that the production is entirely appropriate. "It's great to raise awareness, especially among college students where violence is so prevalent," Mitchell said.

Whatever their opinion before the show, Meade said that people will walk away from The Vagina Monologues with "a deep understanding" of the way we live. "Violence

against women is not just something that happens in other countries," she said. "It's happening in our country, in our cities and we have the power to stop it."

The price of admission is \$4 for students attending LSUS or any school with current ID, \$6 for faculty and staff and \$9 for the general public. Tickets are available at the LSUS Bookstore in the University Center. All proceeds will benefit organizations working to stop violence against women.

For more information, contact Meade at vdayshreveportbossier@yahoo.com or visit the V-day Web site at <http://www.vday.org>.

Students discuss Mardi Gras

by
Krystal Lee Williams

Laissez les bons temps roulez! "Let the Good Times Roll" is what many will shout at Mardi Gras celebrations in all parts of Louisiana this week. Some students might also be shouting for joy because no classes will be held Feb. 11-12.

In the Northwest part of the state, Mardi Gras revelers take part in a more family-oriented celebration than the one held in New Orleans each

year. Locals who missed last weekend's Krewe of Centaur parade can still catch a few beads at the Krewe of Gemini parade on Saturday.

Although many participate in the parades every year, not everyone knows what Mardi Gras is all about. The reasons for the celebration are that the people of New Orleans love to party and that Fat Tuesday, the last day of the festival, is the last day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the religious holy season of Lent.

Some LSUS students have already made plans for this Mardi Gras holiday. Journalism major Kimberly Chester said she plans to "get wild and crazy" at the parade in Shreveport.

Some said they will have barbecues before heading off to this weekend's parade, despite the predicted cold weather.

Some students have small children, and will be making the Mardi Gras parades a family affair. Other students said they plan on having par-

ties with family and friends.

Pamela Cunningham, a psychology major, said she's planning to skip Mardi Gras altogether. Cunningham said she'll "study and sleep and

study more and sleep more" during the school break.

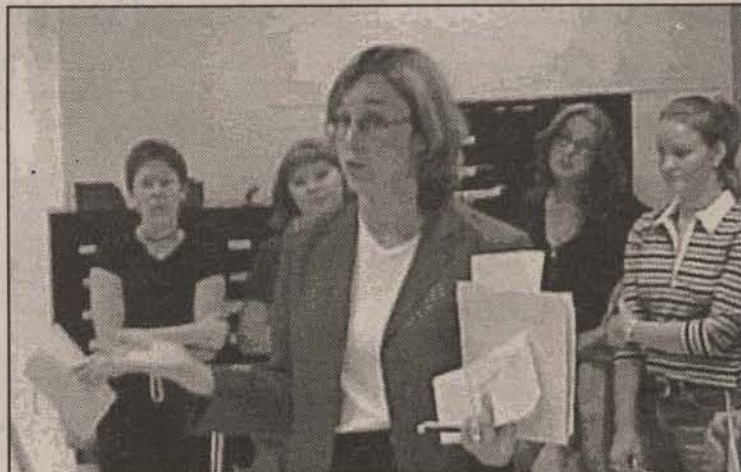
For more information on this weekend's parade, visit the Krewe of Gemini Web site at <http://www.kreweofgemini.com>

Student Activities plans activities despite lack of turnout

by
Candice Leone

The Student Activities Board (SAB) discussed upcoming campus events, including monthly movie screenings, Spring Fling, and possible Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day activities at its Jan. 29 meeting.

As of press time, the five members and officers Kandice LuBom, advertising and recruitment chair, and Marina Kroupenina, special events and concerts chair, who attended the meeting were unsure of exactly which activities the organization would hold for Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. Some members suggested painting ceramic tiles on Feb. 7 for



Shannon Murphy, director of student activities

Valentine's Day, and serving king cake and making and displaying floats along the campus for Mardi Gras.

The SAB screens a movie each month in the University Center Theater. On Feb. 21 at

7 p.m., members will show "Shrek" at no cost to students with a current LSUS I.D.

The movie that the SAB showed in January, "Remember the Titans," was poorly attended, members said. "I

heard only 10 or 20 people showed up," said Marina Kroupenina, a freshman pre-medical major. Kroupenina also said that none of the four SAB officers, including herself, showed up for the viewing.

Members are still undecided on what movie will be screened in March. "We will probably survey students on what they want to watch," Kroupenina said.

Spring Fling, a festival the SAB organizes each spring, will be held April 18 and 19. Although members are uncertain, tentative plans include a temporary tattoo stencil booth, a contest between local bands and a variety of food booths. LuBom, a sophomore criminal justice

major, said that the SAB events that attract the most people are the ones which feature food.

The SAB chooses and schedules programming for students. The organization is funded by the student activities fee, which is paid by all LSUS full-time students each semester. All students may join the SAB and voice their opinion of how fees should be spent. Kroupenina said the organization welcomes new members.

The SAB meets every Tuesday during common hour in the Desoto Room of the University Center. For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 797-5393.

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For information contact Dr. Pederson @ wpederso@pilot.lsus.edu or (318) 797-5138

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

In regards to the SGA proposal to increase the student activities fee, I feel neutral. Already, there are so many different student organizations with great, fun-loving students in which people could become involved. I have no complaints about LSUS's lack of sponsoring student activities. We have EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE faculty and staff involvement. There are many fun things a student can do here at LSUS, beginning with students' initiative to become involved with campus clubs, SGA, SOC, SAB, *the Almagest*, intramural sports, etc. However, if raising the student activities fee justifies the expense of more student events, then go for it. In my humble opinion, I am very pleased with LSUS as a whole, and I have no regrets about moving from Texas to attend this reputable university.

Dawn Reed

Senior, Business Management and Administration

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to the January 31, 2002, edition about the increase of the student activities fee. We are not just talking about a little increase either. This is a 100% increase. I feel the senate and especially the Student Government Association- keyword there "Student"- did a poor job of communicating with the student body to see what they thought. The SGA never asked for the approval of the students. The only reason the students heard anything about the increase was from *the Almagest*. The first edition of *the Almagest* for this semester ran January 31, the day the vote was to be taken. I feel I am the best spokesperson for this because I write for *the Almagest*, one of the organizations benefiting from the increase. There is nothing more important to me

than to see *the Almagest* succeed. However, *the Almagest*, like all the other organizations should earn money on there own by good old fashioned fund raising. These groups should not receive money by forcing the student body to pay high activity fees. I came from a very poor high school and the organizations there worked diligently planning car washes, candy sales, pancake breakfasts, and many other fund raisers to earn money. In the article, LSUS was compared to Louisiana Tech and Northwestern University. LSUS is unlike these Universities in many ways. We should never be compared to these schools. LSUS is an academic school. As much as some people would like to change that we are, and will be for years to come. This is a commuter school, not a big school with football team, basketball team, and all the other amenities of a big school. I did a little research and found that Northwestern activity fees are \$133.50 for the fall and \$113.50 for the spring. These fees include admission to all on-campus sports events. Admission to all plays and concerts are also included with student I.D. Access to a golf course and symphony concerts are included in the fee as well. The fall fees are higher because they include a yearbook for all full-time students. So as you can see the students get direct benefits from there activity fee. This information was provided by Lynda Cates, Accounting Specialist at Northwestern. Cates also told me that \$2.25 from each student goes to SGA, and \$3.00 goes to the newspaper. So if these organizations want to be like these other schools so bad I say increase the fee by \$5.25 per student. I hope this has effected people in such a way they will get involved by reading and responding to *the Almagest* and interacting with the SGA and student senators.

Sincerely,

Lisa Branch

From the managing editor

Vagina was a scary word for me, too.

I didn't think about it much, and I surely didn't say it out loud. Men talked about their penises and sexuality all day long, but I could never utter the word vagina.

Then I read *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler. I picked it up after reading reviews for it on the Internet. Several women had posted messages that the book had changed their lives and gave them a new outlook on being a woman. Of course, I was curious.

I read the book in about three hours. I laughed, cried and even blushed at the frankness of the monologues women gave on the subjects of their bodies, their sexuality and ability to reproduce and their womanhood.. I read about women who sounded like they could be me or a friend of mine and about women who couldn't be more unlike me.

The monologues are based on more than 200 interviews that Ensler did with women of all backgrounds, so each woman who hears or reads them is bound to see herself at some point.

When I was done reading, the word vagina didn't seem so scary anymore. I mean, it's the name of a body part. I was embarrassed that I had ever felt ashamed of my vagina, and essentially, my womanhood. I wanted my mother, my sister, my friends- everyone- to read the book.

Now, the entire LSUS community has a chance to see a production of the play on which *The Vagina Monologues* was based. Student Lindsay Meade, who attended a conference where she met Ensler, attained the rights to stage the play on our campus. Meade's production opens on Feb. 14, the same night the play will open on college campuses around the world and debut on HBO.

The play itself is a big deal, but it is also connected to a worthy cause. As Ensler explains in her book, her work on *The Vagina Monologues* inspired an initiative called V-Day. The event has been held every Feb. 14 since 1998 in an effort to help stop and prevent violence against women. All proceeds from productions of *The Vagina Monologues* will be donated to organizations dedicated to furthering the V-Day cause. Meade has also arranged for the YWCA to have a booth and counselors available before and after the three times the play is performed at LSUS.

The play is an opportunity for students and faculty to understand *The Vagina Monologues* and to do something to stop a social problem that probably affects at least one person you know. Some people on campus don't see it that way, though. I've heard disparaging comments from students and faculty members, both male and female, that tells me that these people don't really understand what the whole vagina thing is all about. They think the name of

the play was a poor choice or that the whole thing is feminist propaganda.

I can't change what those people think, so I'm not going to try. I just know that for me, *The Vagina Monologues* and V-Day are about refusing to whisper the word vagina anymore. They're about calling attention to the violent crimes such as domestic abuse and rape that are committed everyday against women in this country and around the world.

I'm proud to have a production of *The Vagina Monologues* on our campus. Maybe other women, and even men, will see it and feel the way that I, Meade and the campus women involved in the play feel about it. Maybe people will realize that vagina isn't such a scary word after all.

Raechal Leone

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

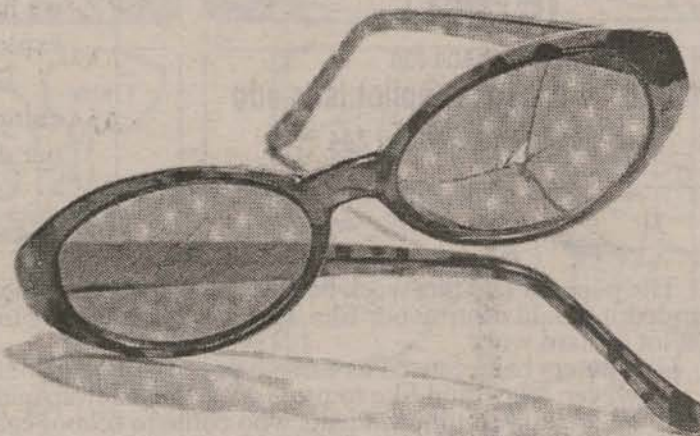


Photo by Michael Kautz

U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge
(as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's
Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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The Almagest Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to *The Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters may not be printed. *The Almagest* reserves the right to edit letters.

Do you have any concerns, complaints, conundrums?

Write us a letter!

It's easy and fun
email us at almagest@pilot.lsus.edu
or stop by Bronson Hall 344

From the editor

■ Students of all backgrounds should celebrate and share their cultural heritage

This week we decided to highlight the new Black Student Association, an organization dedicated to celebrating African-American cultural heritage and fighting racism.

February is designated as Black History Month, a reminder of the great contributions African-Americans have made to our history.

The history of African-Americans is the history of America, not just blacks.

The struggle for civil rights is not the struggle for a particular group, but for all human beings.

LSUS has a rich diversity of students of all cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The more we learn about each other, the better we can learn with each other.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech that his hope for his children was that they would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

The content of a person's character includes ethnic background, religion and political and philosophical beliefs. But none of these things alone itself define a person. People are complex, with layers of depth waiting to be explored.

And our culture has very little to do with the color of our skin. Any educated person can incorporate a diversity of cultural influences into his or her own identity.

We grow depth by going beyond what we have become accustomed to and exploring new horizons of learning.

Equality does not mean ignoring our cultural differences, but recognizing that our differences are what make us individ-

uals. We can grow as individuals by sharing our differing viewpoints and recognizing that all men and women have a unique contribution to make to the world.

But even today, prejudice remains.

We are all the victim of stereotypes, both by stereotyping others and by being stereotyped ourselves.

The source of prejudice is ignorance. This is not always intentional. It is human nature to try to categorize things.

It is easier to make assumptions about others rather than take the time to get to know them.

But by doing this, we not only do them the disservice of ignoring their individual value, but miss the opportunity to get to know other human beings.

We must break down the barriers between each other by opening the lines of communication.

As Dr. King said, people should be judged on an individual basis. No two people are exactly the same. Each of us is a collection of unique experiences.

The opportunity to share these experiences enriches all of us. But some people do not have the equal opportunity to participate in the interchange of ideas.

It is our duty as university students to inform ourselves of the problems that exist within our society so that we may change them.

We cannot change others. There are some who will always succumb to ignorance, racism and sexism.

However, we can be alert for these things within ourselves and work to educate ourselves against them.

Learning leads to understanding.

This month we should all take time to learn about our common heritage in the history of the struggle of African-Americans, the struggle to create America as truly the land where all men are created equal.

-mm

Clarifications

The paper is late this week because as we were completing our customary Tuesday layout the computer we were working on decided it would destroy our file. This was quite vexing to us, in particular Chris Alexander, the production editor, as we had put in a lot of hard work.

Computers have caused us these types of problems before, and we're sorry for the delay. But of course, computers are evil.

However, we would like to provide the best newspaper we can, which sometimes means taking our time. And time it takes indeed. We are all full time students who come to school early and leave late in order to get the paper together.

On a typical weekday, I might be at school from 7 in the morning until 9 at night.

Of course, this is mostly by choice. I take 18 hours, 15 of which are 400 level classes. The other editors have equally challenging schedules. Reporters volunteer their time scouring the campus for information that we feel is beneficial to the students, faculty and staff of LSUS.

But obviously we can't do it alone. This is why we need you, the reader to provide suggestions, complaints and story ideas whenever you feel like we could use it. Equally important is the perspective you may provide by contributing letters to the editor. Your thoughts are important. Please share them. Thanks for reading. Please write.

-matt morris, editor in chief

DON'T FEED ME
YOUR BUTTS

Please put litter in its place
It only takes a second and it
looks nice. Lets not kill
another bird.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

LSUS Theater

Feb. 14, 15, and 16 at 7:00pm

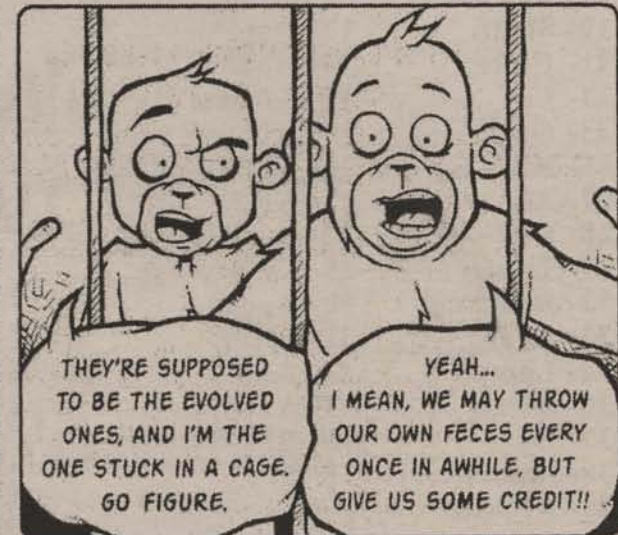
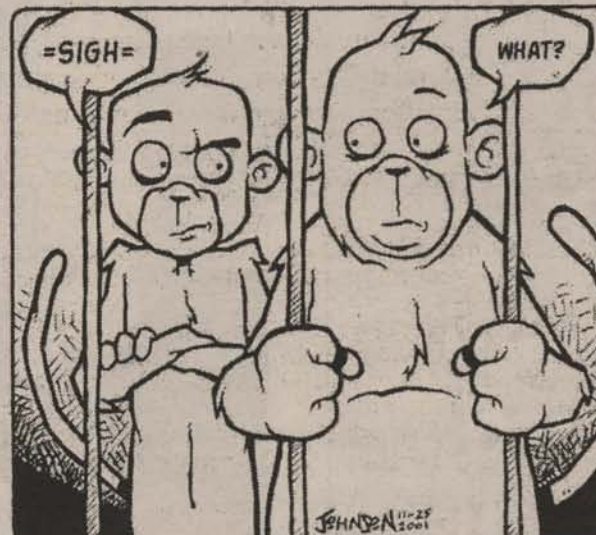
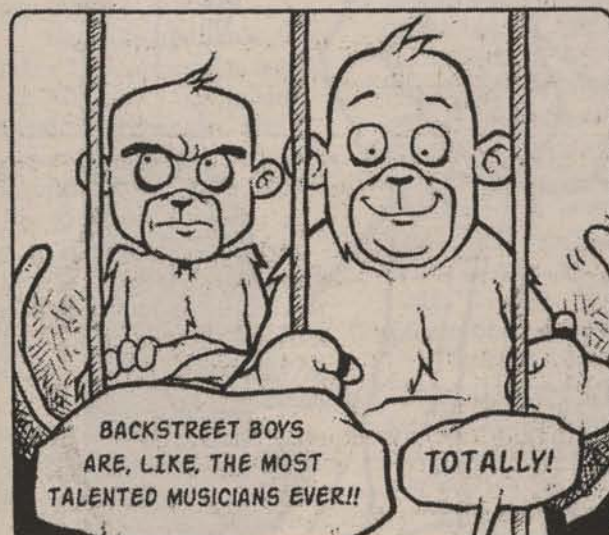
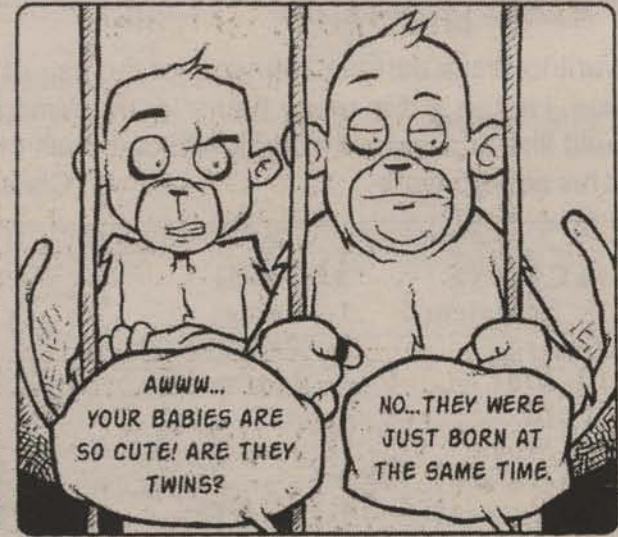
Buy your tickets at the LSUS Bookstore
or by calling 797-5302

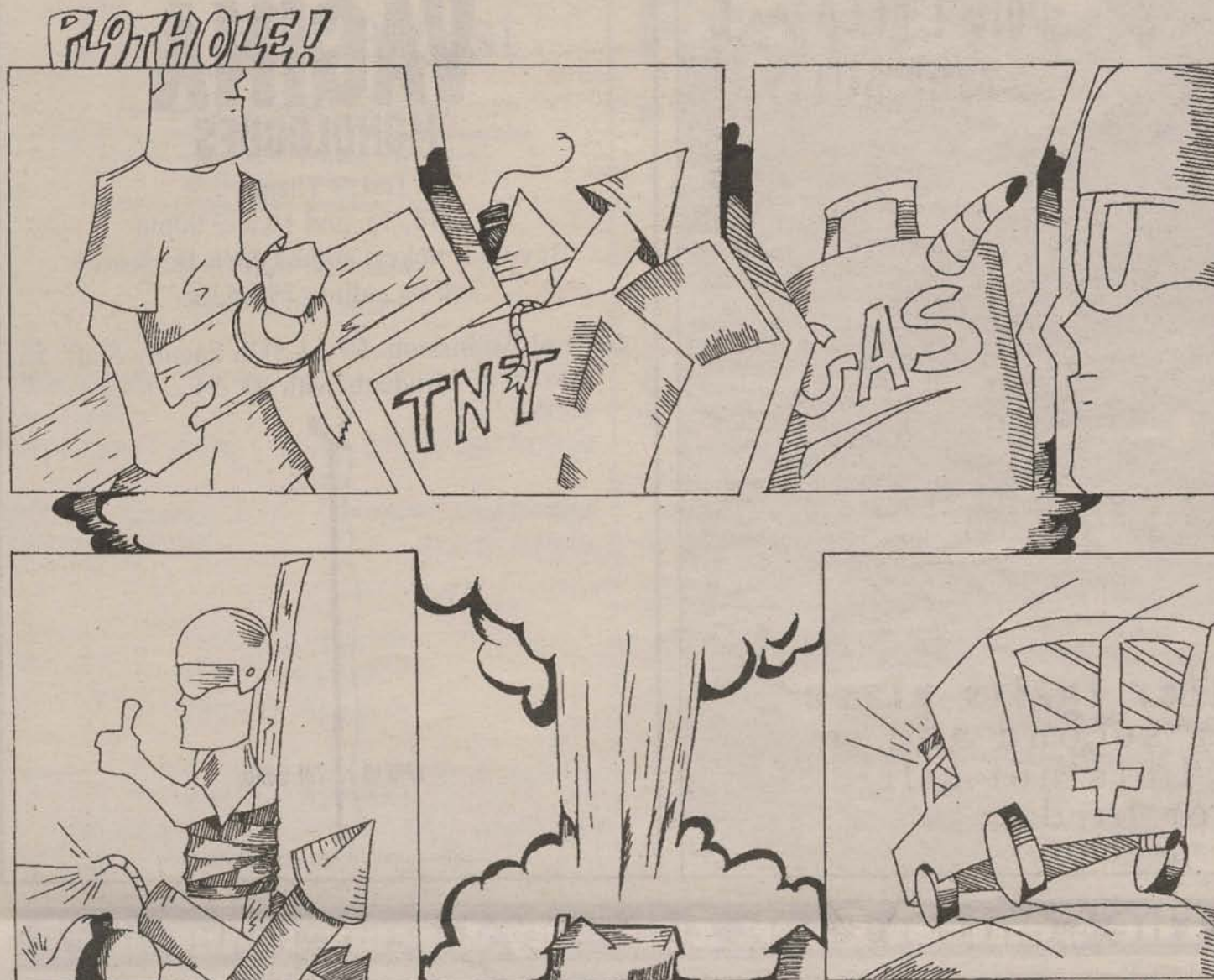
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A Day At The Central Park Zoo • By Jeremy Johnson





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I want to thank Jeremy Johnson for the use of his cartoons this issue. He has put in many hours for the Almagest in the past and I would like to personally thank him on behalf of the Almagest staff for his superb work.

-Christopher Alexander

Across

- 1- Spinalcord
- 9- Arc
- 10- Liar
- 11- Id
- 13- Moan
- 15- era
- 16- No
- 17- Enron
- 19- Slant
- 21- Unite
- 22- Les
- 23- Gas
- 25- AB
- 27- AI
- 28- Oh
- 29- Trade
- 32- Ape
- 33- Agar
- 34- Lamp
- 36- Diet
- 37- Ox
- 38- Sinner
- 39- Necktie

Down

- 1- Same
- 2- Pron
- 3- Icarus
- 4- AI
- 5- Lie
- 6- Carseat
- 7- Oral
- 8- Dinnerdate
- 12- Dots
- 14- Non
- 18- Niche
- 20- AL
- 23- Gallon
- 24- AI
- 26- Brain
- 28- OPP
- 30- Agent
- 31- ER
- 32- AM
- 35- Axe
- 36- Die
- 38- Si

Solution to The World's Worst Cross word Puzzle

Word Mujleb

This weeks
words are associated
with the Judicial sys-
tem. Good Luck

Hint

mehnitpun
saltuas
deguj
fenadendt
oruct
eacep
nbod
rawtnar
dicujial
paelap
jectobion
sudtasine
coselun
ruledvero



BAD EVOLUTIONIST JOKES